

information. A maintenance agreement for prevention of the cross-contamination is contracted between the maintenance service office 34 and the customer 35, and a charge 47 in exchange for the maintenance service is paid from the customer 35 to the maintenance service office 34.

8 Pages 20-21, please replace the paragraph bridging these pages, page <sup>20</sup>21, line 21 to page 21, line ~~28~~ with the following paragraph:

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Fig. 11 is a block diagram showing a flow of cross-contamination information for an automatic analyzer according to a third embodiment of the present invention and charges paid in exchange for the cross-contamination information. In this third embodiment, cross-contamination information is managed with participation of an analyzer manufacturer 82, a maintenance service office 83, a customer (examination room or examination center) 84 purchasing the cross-contamination information, and customers (examination rooms or examination centers) 93, 94 offering the cross-contamination information. Individual data of cross-contamination information 92 obtained based on tests are stored in respective memories of automatic analyzers of the information offering customers 93, 94. The cross-contamination information 92 is transmitted from an input/output unit of each analyzer to the maintenance service office 83 via a communication line. The maintenance service office 83 pays charges 90, 91 in exchange for the transmitted cross-contamination information 92 to the customers 93, 94 having offered the cross-contamination information. The analyzer manufacturer manages the cross-contamination information received by the